

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

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*The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for forty days,
tempted by Satan.*

Mark 1:12-13

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 21, 2021

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

Parochial Vicars: Reverend Fidelis Ezeani, Reverend Frank Zero, Reverend Emmanuel Okonkwo

Deacons: Deacon William Crosby, Deacon Douglas G. Smith, Deacon Robert A. Becker

Business Manager: Mr. Thomas Crennan

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Mr. Christopher Ferraro

Deacon Frank Odin, Retired

COME AND PRAY...

Our church is open

6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. seven days a week,
except for Thursdays when it closes
after the 12:15 p.m. Mass for cleaning.

Come in and spend some time in prayer.

Face covering and social distancing required.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday: 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Saturday Morning: 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated):
5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (live-streamed), 12:00 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We pray Evening Prayer each Saturday at 4:00 p.m.,
each Sunday at 7:00 p.m., and
Morning Prayer each Sunday at 9:15 a.m.
on the Zoom video platform. Click on the Zoom link
on the home page of our website.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday, 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Confessions are being heard in classrooms
in the “new school annex” near High Street.

See inside bulletin for safety protocols.

Also available by individual appointment
with one of the priests.

OLPH NOVENA DEVOTIONS

Monday afternoons
at 12:45 p.m. in the church

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday: 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

First Saturday: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.


Friday, Saturday and Sunday:
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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PICK OF THE WEEK

February 21, 2021

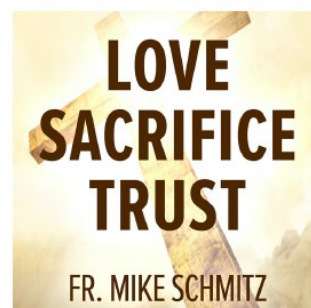
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PASTOR'S PAGE

First Sunday of Lent

And so begins another Lent! Are you prepared to journey with Jesus through the desert for 40 days, struggling with temptation and sinfulness?

The Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent is always one of the accounts of Jesus going into the desert and being tempted; this year we hear St. Mark's very stark version. As we are confronted with that Gospel and with undertaking the Lenten journey, the goal which we must keep ever before us is that of **conversion** — namely, letting go of our sinful and destructive ways and finding new life with Christ. Moving closer to this goal does not just happen on its own, though; we have to make conscious and deliberate choices so that we can make the most of this precious and grace-filled time in the desert with the Lord. For us, Lent is the perfect time to recommit ourselves to God by accepting in an ever-deepening way our true identity as sons and daughters of God, adopted through baptism into Christ Jesus. Yes, we face temptations, but those temptations are a normal part of the Christian life, and they should force us to focus on what is really important, namely, our rootedness in Christ and the grace to overcome temptation that comes to us when we turn to Christ.

As we begin this Lenten season, pay attention at Mass to see and hear how Lent is different than other times of the liturgical year. As we have been doing for a number of years now at OLPH, we have marked this First Sunday of Lent with an ancient custom of singing of the Litany of the Saints at the Entrance of the Mass. Notice, too, our stark worship environment in the church; this reminds us of the simplicity and seriousness we are called to during this season, and it creates a hunger for the blossoming of the new life we will experience at Easter. As always, the prayers of the Mass provide the central focus for us in our Lenten spirituality. I invite you to explore their spiritual depth and richness, and to use those prayers to ground your reflections during this first week of Lent.

The Collect (Opening Prayer) of the Mass sets the agenda for us and very much gives us the sense that we are beginning something significant. We pray that *"through the yearly observance of holy Lent... we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects."* Notice how the emphasis is that our observance of Lent should have a concrete effect in our behavior — our conduct should be worthy of our life in Christ. Also, there are "hidden riches" to discover in the life of Christ — especially the "riches" of rising with him to new life in the Paschal Mystery.

The Prayer over the Offerings also acknowledges the beginning of Lent as *"we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time,"* but, like the Collect, the prayer also reminds us of a change that is supposed to occur in us: *"Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings..."* We must always strive to present ourselves to the Lord with the acceptable sacrifice of a life that is good and holy and true.

The Prayer after Communion speaks of the nourishment that comes to us in the Eucharist by referencing the three traditional virtues of faith, hope and charity. Also, the prayer goes on to ask *"that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth."*

Finally, the Preface (the first part of the Eucharistic Prayer, before the *Holy, Holy*) echoes the Gospel as it makes reference to Jesus' fast of forty days in the desert and the temptations he faced. It reminds us that we, too, are to go into desert during Lent to confront our temptations and our sins, strengthened in that spiritual combat by our union with Christ.

And so begins another Lent!

Stations of the Cross

We kicked off our Friday night series of Lenten Stations of the Cross this past Friday, February 19, with that first evening having been led by members of the Liturgy Committee. Friday night Stations continues this coming Friday, February 26; look for the information elsewhere in this bulletin.

I am extremely grateful to all the parish groups and to all the parishioners who are offering their time and witness to lead the Stations on Friday nights, and I am proud of how everyone is working together. In addition to enriching your own spiritual observance of Lent, coming out on Friday nights to attend, if you are able (if you are coming to Mass, you can come to Stations of the Cross) would show great solidarity and support to these fellow parishioners who are making this offering for YOU. Come to Stations together as a family each Friday night, making it an opportunity for family prayer time together!

When will you go to Confession during Lent? Don't wait until the last minute!

So, have you put your Confession Appointment in your calendar yet (as I suggested last week) — you know, the time you have set aside when will you go to Confession during Lent?

Our confession times during Lent will be listed in a special bulletin ad throughout all of Lent. Don't wait until the last minute and find that you can't get to Confession! There are plenty of times available, especially from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday of Holy Week, March 29 — that would be the perfect day to go (maybe the best day)! Also, you can call or e-mail one of the priests and make a separate appointment to see him for Confession! (It's a good idea to always call ahead and not just drop in; that way you can ensure we are available.) We'll be happy to see you that way, too! What could be easier than that?

So, there's no excuse! Make your plan NOW to go to Confession, if you have not already done so; it's important enough to plan ahead for, right?

Remember that during the scheduled times, Confessions are being heard in the school building (in classrooms in the "new school" annex along High Street), not in the church, in order to be able to follow coronavirus safety protocols. Mask is required.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), and the Rite of Election

Lent is a special time not only for those of us who are already fully initiated Catholics, but also for those who are unbaptized and who have been preparing for a long time to become Catholic by celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist — at an Easter Vigil. As this Easter approaches, our catechumen Wende Mitchell has, after a long preparation, now been sufficiently formed, and so she is beginning her final stage of preparation with this year's Lent. Today, the First Sunday of Lent, is a very significant day for her, for our entire parish, and indeed for the whole Church, as she celebrates the Rite of Election, right here at OLPH! Read all about it in the RCIA blurb elsewhere in this bulletin for full details.

We look forward with joy and excitement to the Easter Vigil this year, when Wende will be baptized, confirmed and receive First Holy Communion. Keep track of her progress in our bulletin announcements in the weeks ahead; she has several special steps and prayer rituals awaiting her during Lent!

Not being seated while a reading or prayer is being proclaimed

If you arrive late for Mass, I ask for your understanding and cooperation in the way we handle the seating of latecomers.

We must never cause a distraction while a reading or prayer is being proclaimed during Mass. Those who are already in the assembly have the

right to expect that they will not be distracted from their focus on the minister (priest, deacon or layperson) who is exercising their ministry in the sanctuary. Remember, it is Christ who is being manifested in the readings, prayers and other texts that are said and sung at Mass, and participants in the pews rightly expect that their encounter with Christ will not be marred by unnecessary movement. The reality is that when latecomers make their way into a seat, those around them are distracted; when that movement occurs up front, a significant number of heads turn toward that movement. Such movement is also distracting to the minister in the sanctuary.

Therefore, Ushers have been instructed to not seat people while an individual minister in the sanctuary is proclaiming or singing a reading, a prayer or some other text. Latecomers will be permitted to move to a seat only when that reading or prayer or singing is over, or when the assembly is reciting or singing a text in unison. Please cooperate with this, and please do not give the Ushers a hard time. We want to be hospitable and accommodating to latecomers as much as we can, and we are happy to seat them at the proper time, but surely we can all understand that it is discourteous to disturb with distracting movements those who arrived on time, who are already seated, and who are already praying the texts and music of the Mass.

LIVING THE EUCHARIST continues this week

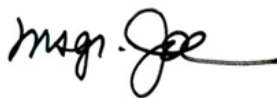
Our special program of LIVING THE EUCHARIST continues this week. This special program of faith formation, which is centered on the connection between our participation in Sunday Eucharist and our daily life, is the way we are undertaking a Parish Lenten Mission this year. We continue to pray for all who are participating in this program, and we thank you for the way that your Lenten offering of participating in this program will bear good spiritual fruit in our parish.

In conclusion...

Together, let's aim high in Christ. Together, let's bring out the best in each other. Together, let's be the best we can be in Christ.

And let's always remember: LOVE IS A GIFT.

Sincerely,



LENT: ITS MEANING, STRUCTURE, AND OUR CHURCH ENVIRONMENT

THE MEANING OF LENT

We're going on retreat! True, we may not physically be traveling to a far-off place, but we are nonetheless going on retreat. The solemn season of Lent may be seen as a time of retreat for the entire Church, as we prepare to celebrate Easter and the new life which comes to us through Jesus' death and resurrection. In fact, three focal points can form the basis for our Lenten spiritual journey:

- focusing on the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection;
- final preparation of those in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist;
- rediscovery of and recommitment to Baptism by those already baptized, through their penance, spiritual renewal, and ongoing conversion.



The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* of Vatican II explains:

The two elements which are especially characteristic of Lent — the recalling of baptism or the preparation for it, and penance — should be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. It is by means of them that the Church prepares the faithful for the celebration of Easter, while they hear God's word more frequently and devote more time to prayer. More use is to be made of the baptismal features which are proper to the Lenten liturgy....The same may be said of the penitential elements. But catechesis, as well as pointing out the social consequences of sin, must impress on the minds of the faithful the distinctive character of penance as a detestation of sin because it is an offense against God. The role of the Church in penitential practices is not to be passed over, and the need to pray for sinners should be emphasized. During Lent, penance should be not only internal and individual but also external and social.

THE STRUCTURE OF LENT

Most people know that Lent is 40 days long, but they think that the 40 days are the six weeks plus the four days of the week of Ash Wednesday (which totals 46 days) minus six Sundays, which equals 40 days. But Lent does not end on Holy Saturday; it ends on Holy Thursday evening. The Triduum, or Three Days, beginning with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and concluding with evening Vespers on Easter Sunday, is a three-day season unto itself, and not merely the final three days of Lent. The span of days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday is 44 days, but the ancient fathers of the Church calculated 40 days by beginning the count with the First Sunday of Lent, and continuing until Holy Thursday. This practice has been kept to the present time, hence the 40 days of Lent.

At least four phases of the season can be discerned:

1. Ash Wednesday and the next three days: These four days form a solemn preview of the season; the Scriptures and Mass prayers announce the major aspects of the observance and call us to enter into the season. The First Sunday of Lent begins the period of 40 days, with the Rite of Election for the catechumens being one expression of this.

2. The 28 days from the First Sunday until the Saturday of the Fourth Week: Scripture readings and penitential rites provide the structure for these days. Penance services and the first two scrutinies for the elect on the Third and Fourth Sundays are all a part of this time. Two feast days — the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle (February 22) and the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (March 19) — break this violet period in 2021. The Fourth or *Laetare* Sunday (March 14) brings its own nuances, and rose-colored vestments may be worn that day

3. *From the Fifth Sunday and following:* Attention becomes focused on the Passion of Christ during this period of Lenten time. The Third Scrutiny for the elect is celebrated on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Also, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25) brings a festive feast day in the midst of this section of Lent.

4. *The last days, called Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord:* These days are given the highest liturgical precedence so the Church will not be distracted from final preparations for the Triduum. Focus on the Passion of Christ becomes intensified.

Remembering that Lent is primarily about baptismal preparation and conversion, let us be aware of the structure and movement of this season as we journey toward Easter.

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER RITUAL ELEMENTS DURING LENT



Our church environment will look different during the Lenten season. The environment in which we worship helps us to enter into a Lenten spirituality — what we see (and don't see) and smell and hear is all a part of the way we pray. Here are some things you will notice during Lent:

THE ASHES USED ON ASH WEDNESDAY WILL BE ON DISPLAY ALL DURING LENT, in the Divine Mercy Chapel area. This will be an ongoing reminder of the spiritual journey of Lent, a journey of dying and rising, a journey of changing our lives to be closer to Christ. The ashes come from burned palms saved from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

THERE WILL BE NO FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH. The Roman Rite is specific about flowers for this penitential season: they are not allowed! The only exceptions this year are the feasts mentioned above and "*Laetare*" Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

OUR BAPTISMAL FONT WILL HAVE A "LENTEN LOOK" TO IT. Our baptismal font will be decorated with purple bands, as a reminder that these forty days of penance and conversion lead to a renewal of our baptismal promises at Easter. We are thirsting for the new Easter water which will flow at the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection!

MUSIC WILL BE MUCH SIMPLER DURING LENT. For example, the organ will be used only to accompany singing, which means there will not be any prelude or postlude instrumental music, except on *Laetare* Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), when the liturgy has a more joyful tone. In a sense, then, you could say that we are fasting with our music. Don't worry, though; we'll make up for it in the exuberance and joy of Easter Time!

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, WE WILL KEEP THE CHURCH'S ANCIENT TRADITION BY SINGING THE LITANY OF THE SAINTS AS WE BEGIN OUR LENTEN PILGRIMAGE. We invoke the names of the saints who accompany us on our journey to Jerusalem.

ON THE OTHER SUNDAYS OF LENT WE WILL SING THE ENTRANCE ANTIPHON. In place of an Entrance Hymn, we will sing the proper (or assigned) text for the Entrance Antiphon as found in the *Roman Missal*. These antiphons set the tone for the liturgy and express the theology of the particular Sunday being celebrated. The antiphon and the accompanying psalm verses will be sung to a Lenten psalm tone.

FOR THE PENITENTIAL ACT AT ALL SUNDAY MASSES DURING LENT WE WILL RECITE THE *CONFITEOR* (THE “I CONFESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD...”) AND THEN SING THE *KYRIE ELEISON* (“LORD, HAVE MERCY”). This will highlight for us the penitential nature of the season and help us to more intently “acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.” It also gives us the chance to use the *Confiteor* (“I confess to almighty God...”) which is not often heard at Sunday Masses.

WE WON’T BE HEARING “ALLELUIA!” Instead of singing “Alleluia” before the Gospel, we sing instead: “Praise and honor to you, O Lord, O Lord. Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.” Also, we won’t sing the word “alleluia” in any of our hymns. We look forward to Easter Time when we celebrate the newness of life and will again sing the “alleluia” with new joy and praise.



WE WILL USE THE APOSTLES’ CREED INSTEAD OF THE NICENE CREED. The Roman Missal tells us, “Instead of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles’ Creed, may be used.” So, to highlight the sacredness of the season, we will use the Apostles’ Creed instead of the Nicene Creed, the one we usually use, for all of Lent and Easter Time. This will highlight for us the baptismal character of both the Lenten and Easter seasons.

THERE WILL BE NO SINGING OR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AT THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS DURING LENT. This will help create a mood of prayerful quiet and reflection appropriate to the season. The Priest may continue to pray the preparation prayers silently, or he may recite them out loud, giving the people the opportunity to respond, “Blessed be God forever.” The exception to this will be *Laetare* Sunday (the Fourth Sunday of Lent), when the liturgy has a more joyful tone.

SIMPLE CHANT TONES WILL BE USED FOR THE EUCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS. The *Holy, Holy*, the *Mystery of Faith*, and the *Great Amen* will be sung to very simple chants, without accompaniment. Also, the *Lamb of God* chant will be sung using the Latin text (“*Agnus Dei...*”).

CROSSES AND IMAGES IN THE CHURCH WILL BE COVERED STARTING WITH THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT. This custom becomes yet another stark visual reminder of the seriousness of Lent and helps us to truly experience heavenly joy and resurrected life when the images of the saints, who are in heavenly glory, are seen once again come Easter.

There are other ritual aspects that go into the celebration of Lent:

- the omission of the *Glory to God in the highest* at the beginning of all Sunday Lenten Masses;
- traditional Lenten practices such as prayer, fasting, and almsgiving;
- Lenten devotions such as Stations of the Cross, which can be prayed either in person or virtually, on our website;
- our Living the Eucharist program, which is taking the place of our usual Parish Lenten Mission this year.

As we journey through the days of Lenten springtime together, let us enter into its spirit by anticipating the new life which comes to us through Jesus’ resurrection at Easter.

LENT 2021 LETTER FROM BISHOP BARRES

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Lent 2021

Dear Friends:

"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan...After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God."(Mark 1:12 – 14) Each year on the First Sunday of Lent, the Church presents for our reflection and prayer the experience of Jesus in the desert. Jesus's experience in the desert follows immediately upon His baptism by Saint John the Baptist and immediately precedes His public ministry and proclamation of the Kingdom of God, in word and in deed. Saint Mark points out to us that the Spirit, who had just descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove, drove Jesus into the desert.

The desert was a barren place, a place of lifelessness, the home of the devil and evil. The Spirit sends Jesus into the desert to prepare himself for the years of His public ministry, ultimately leading to His Death and Resurrection. Jesus spends time away from the world to prepare himself. But He also goes forth into the desert to begin His battle against evil, sin and death. Jesus goes into the very dwelling of evil to begin the confrontation. This battle will continue throughout the rest of Jesus's life. The ultimate victory will come on Good Friday through His ultimate act of love on the Cross.

Our yearly experience of Lent, our forty day "desert experience," can be viewed in the same way. We are inspired and sent by the Spirit to spend some time apart from the world of noise and recover the beauty of silence. But, we are also sent to do battle. Our experience of true silence should allow us the opportunity to both listen to the voice and promptings of God as well as to better know ourselves. This personal battle against sin and evil can be painful, because we come to realize that we are all in need of constant conversion. There are real changes each and every one of us need to make in our lives and our hearts this Lent. But like Jesus, we are not alone. The Lord was ministered to by angels during His forty days in the desert. We are constantly aided by our guardian angels, by the angels and saints in heaven, by the community of the baptized, and by the grace of the sacraments of the Church. Like Jesus, we need to emerge from the desert ready to take on the evils of the world and work to spread the Gospel.

It was only a few short weeks into Lent 2020 that the experience of Covid-19 made radical changes to our society, our Church, and our families. The experience of desert isolation was no longer a metaphor but a lived reality. The experience of having our parishes locked down for months was painful for all of us. Many of us still experience this isolation in many ways. But as Christians we always remain men and women of hope. We know that the Cross of Good Friday leads to the empty tomb of Easter Sunday.

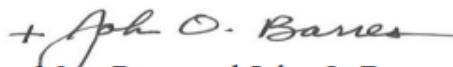
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Pope Francis has declared this year as a special Year of Saint Joseph. In Saint Joseph we find a man of profound hope and strength as well as prayerful silence. Scripture does not record one word spoken by Saint Joseph. But Scripture does tell us of his unwavering faith and trust, which go beyond words. Following Jesus, and like Saint Joseph, men and women in the first centuries of the Church began to leave the towns and villages and settle in the isolation of the desert. Like the Lord, they sought to rid themselves of the distractions of everyday life so they too could do battle with evil, and through their quiet example proclaim the Kingdom of God.

This continued throughout the history of the Church, even to our present moment. Saint Antony, Saint Benedict, Saint Bruno, and so many others show us the lived experience of the desert is not an escape from the reality of life but a privileged encounter with the Lord and a revelation of our true selves. While most of us are not called to the monastic or solitary life, the last twelve months have given each of us an experience of solitude. We are encouraged to remain "socially distant." In the midst of the real suffering and hardships this has caused, perhaps the hidden grace is that it has led us to be "temporary monastics."

Our typical Lenten "desert experience" of forty days has lasted a bit longer. But we will come out of it! And like the Lord, when we emerge our goal is to proclaim the Gospel of God according to our vocation and the graces given to us. In addition to our personal sins and the evils present in our own hearts, we live in a world that is right now suffering from real physical illness as well as real division and hurt of every kind. Jesus emerged from the desert bringing the healing presence of God to all he encountered. As the baptized, the Church, the continuing presence of Jesus in the world, we need to do the same. The same Holy Spirit that drove Jesus into the desert is driving us on.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

MEETING FOR ALL LECTORS

All parish Lectors are reminded to attend the important meeting for all those in this ministry, to be held on Saturday, March 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the church. The meeting will include the opportunity for prayer, reflection on your ministry, and a discussion of important business items. All Lectors are expected to attend, as this is one of the required semi-annual meetings for ongoing formation. Thank you.

Stations of the Cross



February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26
at 7:30 p.m. in the church
and Good Friday, April 2 at 12:00 Noon

We are continuing the custom of having different groups from the parish lead the Stations of the Cross on the Friday nights during Lent as a great way to highlight the traditional Lenten devotion of the Stations of the Cross.

February 26 will be led by the Music Ministry.

Due to COVID restrictions you must remain in the pews - socially distant, retain booklets each week and masks must be worn.



CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: February 27, March 6, 13, 20
4:00 p.m.– 4:45 p.m.

Saturday March 27: 3:00 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Monday of Holy Week, March 29
3:00 p.m.– 9:00 p.m.

*Confessions are held
in the school annex on High Street.*



ABSTINENCE AND FASTING

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth (14th) year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on all the Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen (18) and fifty-nine (59) inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Good Friday. This means

limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fast and abstinence. Individual conscience should decide proper cause for excuse. A more serious reason is required to excuse oneself from the Good Friday fast and abstinence.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



Congratulations to our sister **Wende Mitchell**, who is in formation to become Catholic through the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults! Today, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass, we will celebrate the **Rite of Election**, and Wende will enter the next stage of her journey in preparation for initiation into the Church at this year's Easter Vigil. At the 10:00 a.m. Mass today, she will be formally recognized and accepted by our diocese as one of the many people throughout the world preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation this coming Easter. By signing the "Book of the Elect," Wende is now referred to as the "elect," which identifies her as one of those completing their final preparation for reception into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil this year.

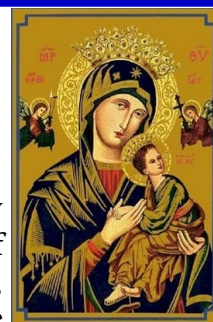
Normally, the Rite of Election is a diocesan celebrated presided over by the Bishop. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Rite of Election this year is being held in individual parishes. Please remember our elect Wende in your prayers today as she enters this final stage of Lenten preparation for reception of the Easter sacraments, and continue to pray for her throughout the season of Lent.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesdays
12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
in the church after the 12:15 p.m. Mass

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help



Each Monday, parishioners pray to seek the help and assistance of the Lord for healing, family, children and the needs of the world, seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother. Take some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

Monday, February 22—12:45 p.m.
Monday, March 1—12:45 p.m.
Monday, March 8—12:45 p.m.

MEETING FOR ALL EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION— WHETHER CURRENTLY ACTIVE OR NOT

ALL Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion — those who are currently active AND those who are not currently active due to the coronavirus — are asked to attend the important meeting to be held on Monday, **March 8** in the church at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will include the opportunity for prayer and a discussion of important business items related to our ongoing coronavirus adaptations, and how those adaptations will affect your ministry in the weeks and months ahead. All E.M.'s, whether active or inactive, are expected to attend, as this is one of the required semi-annual meetings for ongoing formation. Masks will be required, and we will sit socially-distanced. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

EVERY SUNDAY ON YOUTUBE - [OLPH CHURCH LINDENHURST](#)



LOOKING FOR ANOTHER WAY TO ENGAGE YOUR CHILD IN THEIR FAITH FROM HOME?

JOIN US WEEKLY TO BREAK OPEN THE GOSPEL AND LISTEN TO A REFLECTION ON THE OLPH YOUTUBE CHANNEL.

Participating in the Children's Liturgy of the Word continues to teach children how to participate in Mass, since they do the same things as are being done in the main body of the church.



IMPORTANT NOTICE AFFECTING ALL CHILDREN OF THE PARISH

As required by the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Sacraments of Initiation are to be celebrated in the home parish of the child. Therefore, all families of OLPH with children celebrating First Communion and Confirmation are to have their children **celebrate those sacraments at OLPH**. As Catholics, our faith identity is centered in our Eucharistic identity, namely, the Sunday worshipping community we belong to (where we celebrate Mass Sunday after Sunday). This community is our primary community and the community in which our faith is lived, day in and day out.

Because of this, and because each year of religious formation builds on the prior one, **all school-aged children who are parishioners of OLPH, regardless of where they attend school, must be registered with our Religious Education Office for all years of religious formation (not only for sacrament-preparation years).**

- Children **in all grades** who attend **public school** attend religion classes in our Religious Education Program, and they and their parents also participate in various non-classroom religious formation experiences.

- Children **in all grades** who attend a **Catholic elementary school** need not attend the Religious Education classes, but they must be registered with us, and they and their parents participate in all the non-classroom religious formation experiences, especially but not only in sacrament-preparation years. These children celebrate the sacraments here at OLPH, not at the parish of their elementary school.

- Children **in all grades** who are **homeschooled** must also be registered with the Religious Education Office; they may or may not be required to attend the Religious Education classes, depending on their homeschool curriculum, but regardless, the homeschooled children and their parents are to attend the various non-classroom formation experiences, especially but not only in sacrament-preparation years. These children celebrate the sacraments here at OLPH.

If you are a parishioner with children in a Catholic elementary school or who are homeschooled and you are not yet on record with our Religious Education Office, please contact the office immediately. If you know of anyone who should be registered, please let them know of this policy. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR BEING IN CHURCH

FOR THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE, ALL WHO ENTER MUST:

- ▶ **WEAR A FACE MASK OR FACE COVERING — NO EXCEPTIONS**
- ▶ **REMAIN AT LEAST SIX (6) FEET APART, SIDE-TO-SIDE AND IN FRONT OF AND BEHIND YOU**
- ▶ **SIT IN DESIGNATED SEATS ONLY**
- ▶ **ENTER ONLY THROUGH WELLWOOD AVENUE DOORS**
- ▶ **EXIT ONLY THROUGH SIDE DOORS ON NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE**

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are being celebrated in the school building, in classrooms in the “new school” annex along High Street every Saturday, 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. until further notice.

Each priest will be in his own classroom.

These are the protocols that must be followed for going to Confession:

- ▶ Entry is only via the blue doors at the north end of the hallway (off of the small parking lot)
- ▶ Exit is only via the doors at the south end of the hallway (into the large parking lot)
- ▶ Everyone — priests and penitents — is required to wear face masks or face coverings
- ▶ Lines on the floor will indicate a 6-foot social distance between those waiting on line outside each classroom
- ▶ Signs on easels outside the classroom will indicate the name of the priest who is in the classroom
- ▶ Social distancing and plexiglass dividers will keep a safe distance between priest and penitent, whether the penitent celebrates anonymously or face-to-face (both options are available)

IF YOU CANNOT YET COME BACK TO MASS...

LIVE-STREAM MASS

We live-stream the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass each week.

You can join us virtually using one of the following:

- The link at the top of the OLPH website:
www.olphlindenhurst.com
- OLPH Facebook page: @olphlindenhurst
- OLPH YouTube Channel:
OLPH Church Lindenhurst



1871

Celebrating 150 Years

2021

2020/2021 ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL PRICING

**BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR AND SUPPORT OLPH!
PLACE AN AD IN OUR COMMEMORATIVE JOURNAL!**

One of the highlights of the Anniversary Year will be a **Commemorative Journal**, available in conjunction with our Anniversary Year Dinner Dance on April 23, 2021.

Support the parish by placing an ad in our journal! An ad can be taken in the name of your family, or your business, and can include congratulatory wishes to the parish, or it can be a memorialization of deceased loved ones, or an expression of gratitude to God. Honor that special priest, family members living or deceased, or just say thanks for the memories. If you're creative, prepare your own ad; if you're not that creative, just send us your message and our team will create the ad for you! There are many possibilities!

Note the deadline date of March 15, 2021!

Don't miss out! Send in your ad copy and payment TODAY!

If you need additional information, or have questions, contact Bob Dobres 631-592-8697 or Mike Hearney 631-560-0451.

PLEASE INDICATE AD SIZE AND TYPE

☐ GOLD FULL PAGE \$350

☐ B/W FULL PAGE \$150

☐ B/W HALF PAGE \$100

☐ B/W 1/4 PAGE \$75

For more information call Bob Dobres at 631-592-8697 or

Mike Hearney at 631-560-0451

AD DIMENSIONS

(WIDTH X HEIGHT)



Full Page and Cover

8.5 x 11"



Half Page

8.5 x 5.5"



Quarter Page

4.25 x 5.5"

Please submit payment along with ad materials no later than March 15, 2021.

Mail hard copy to rectory address above and attach copy of ad or materials (ad text, photos, images) to this form or write copy on back.

Email electronic version to 150thjournal@oloph.org. Please email a .pdf or .jpg file format.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

1871

Celebrating 150 Years

2021

Use this form to order great 150th Anniversary Memorabilia!150th Anniversary Memorabilia of
Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Name: _____ Date: _____

Phone (cell/home) _____

E-mail: _____

Thank you for celebrating with us! Bring this form & hand it in to the rectory with precise payment of either cash (in a ziplock bag) or check. You will be notified when your order is ready for a pickup date.

You may also check the website for a closer look at these products!

<http://olph150th.com>

Item	Price	Quantity	Item	Price	Quantity
 Keychain	\$10.00		 Tote bag	\$10.00	
 T-Shirt	\$15.00	S ____ M ____ L ____	 Pen with Stylus	\$3.00	
 Sweatshirt	\$40.00	M ____ L ____ XL ____	 Playing cards	\$12.00	
 Tumbler	\$15.00		 Magnet	\$ 3 2 for \$5	

For Office Use Only

Total Price: _____ Number of items: _____

Received by: _____

Date: _____

Order Placed: _____

Pickup date: _____

Picked up by: _____

Order Received: _____

Notified Date(s): _____



Brick locations will be assigned in the order in which they are received in front of the "Let the Children Come to Me" statue.

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Lindenhurst, NY 11757

If you would like to add a heart or a cross to your brick, it will be engraved on the left hand side.

[illegible]

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Located in the Rectory
 Phone # 631.226.7725 x. 253
 Email: religioused@oloph.org
 Director: Mrs. April Kleinlaut
 (akleinlaut@oloph.org)

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION HOURS:

Monday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Wednesday: 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Friday: **CLOSED**
 Saturday: **By Appointment**

PARENTS of Level 7 Students

On Wednesday, February 24, you will receive an e-mail with information concerning videos to watch on the topic of Social Justice. You will not come into the building on this night as originally planned. Watch the videos at home. All students will go to class as scheduled.

Communion Fee

Please come to the office to pay the Communion fee and to pick up the Communion banner. The student must make the banner at home, and it will be due back on March 20.

LEVEL 5

Your Parent/Child Workshop Video on Lent will be made available on Saturday, February 27. In-Person Students will not attend class on this day, but will watch the video at home with their parents, just as we did with the Commitment Prayer Service at the beginning of the year.

Vacation Bible Camp Needs You!

Planning Meeting **Saturday, March 6**
at 12:00 p.m. in the school Auditorium. Please consider being a part of our Adventure Crew! Contact April for more information!



Happy Saint of the Day!
St. Claude de la Colombiere

St. Claude de la Colombiere was a Roman Catholic priest and was the confessor of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. St. Margaret Mary had many visions of Jesus, but there were people who didn't believe her. St. Claude helped her by saying he had faith that the visions were real, based on her testimonies.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † Bereavement Ministry: Linda Arpino—631.592.1062—forubabe77@gmail.com
- † Blue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631.561.5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Kathy Feldman—631 225-9864—cdefeldman@optonline.net
- † Community Meal: Mary Leon—mleon719@yahoo.com
- † Homeless Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com—Peggy Pannullo—631. 921.5994—justin97@aol.com
- † Hospital Visitors: Peter O'Neill—631-226-6340—oneillp@optonline.net
- † Middle Ages: Gail Tonnessen—631.957.1449—gtonness@optonline.net
- † Nursing Ministry: Regina Muir—631.226.2709—rmuir11@aol.com
- † Respect Life Committee: Louise Perrotta—631.412.3831—louiseperrotta@optonline.net
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Bill Stysiack—631.226.7725, x. 234
- † Senior Moments/Spirituality: Virginia Beyrer—631-226-6635
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker Paolo—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org

NEW Food Pantry List!

**SOUPS WITH MEAT
PANCAKE MIX
SHELF STABLE MILK
PEANUT BUTTER
CANNED MEATS
GRAVIES
CANNED CHICKEN
CANNED FRUIT**

**NECESSARY PAPER PRODUCTS
SHAMPOO**

Please bring items to the SVdP office:

Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. and

on 1st and 3rd Saturdays 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Thank you

for your continued generosity.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

**Located in the School Building
Use Parking Lot located on corner of
Gates & High Streets**

631.226.7725 x. 234

Our regular office hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. and

1st and 3rd Saturdays 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

In today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes temptation. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Last month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist 75 adults, 58 children and 11 seniors, for a total of 56 families. God bless you and thank you.

THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM

THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL AT OLPH

During these very difficult times many of us find ourselves in financial difficulty, often for the first time. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is here to help. Please don't feel embarrassed—you are not alone. We want to assure you that all matters relating to SVDP are completely confidential. All volunteer workers in the Food Pantry are Vincentians who are pledged to follow the "Rule" in dealing with our friends and neighbors. We reach out to those who come to us with kindness, sincerity and total confidentiality. You may come to the pantry for food every two weeks. The money that would have been spent on this food can then be used to pay other bills. Please reach out to us by calling our Food Pantry office at 631-226-7725 x. 234. Our regular office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. and 1st and 3rd Saturdays 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. We're here for you.

CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

America As a Religious Refuge in the 17th Century — Part 1

Refusing to compromise passionately held religious convictions, in 1620 102 Pilgrims, followed by thousands of Puritans in the 1630's and 1640's, fled European persecution for the British North American colonies. The New England colonies of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland were established as "plantations of religion."⁽¹⁾ Some settlers came for secular motives, but the great majority left Europe to worship God in the way they believed to be correct. They enthusiastically supported the efforts of their leaders to create "a city on a hill" or a "holy experiment," whose success would prove that God's plan for his churches could be successfully realized in the American wilderness.⁽²⁾ Even colonies like Virginia that were planned as commercial ventures were led by self-proclaimed "militant Protestants."

The Puritans settled in Massachusetts with a goal to make the church more holy. By 1690 they were the largest religious group, with 50,000 living in Massachusetts. Since they believed theirs was the only true religion, they expelled those who disagreed. Puritan minister Roger Williams disagreed with compelling others to agree with him, and he was forced to leave the colony in 1636. He went on to establish the colony of Rhode Island, founded on the principle of religious freedom.

America is Still an Asylum for Those Seeking Religious Freedom

A U.S. core value is the right to be a member of any religion you choose and to worship openly. This is why America grants religious asylum to those who have been persecuted for their beliefs. The Commission on International Religious Freedom was formed in 1998 to study the impact and violations of religious freedom around the world.⁽³⁾

(loc.gov/exhibits/religion (1)(2); manythings.org; reference.com, 3/28/20; politicalasylumusa.com; mtsu.edu/firstamendment; *Proclamation on Religious Freedom Day, 2020*)

"America didn't create religious liberty. Religious liberty created America." —Governor Bobby Jindal

America As a Religious Refuge in the 17th Century — Part 2

The Jews first migrated to the American colonies when they fled from Brazil, where they had settled upon fleeing the Portuguese Inquisition in the 1500's. But a Portuguese conquest of their area of Brazil in 1654 confronted the Jewish population with the prospect of a new Inquisition. Avoiding this new threat, a shipload of 23 Jewish refugees arrived in New Amsterdam (soon to become New York) that same year. This small community attracted more refugees and in the following decades, still seeking religious freedom, Jewish communities grew in Newport, RI, Philadelphia, PA, Charleston, SC, and Savannah, GA.

An Independent Spirit Grows in the Colonies

Over the next 100 years, diverse circumstances and ideas converged to inspire colonists to believe that individual freedom, not government domination dictated by powers far removed from their circumstances, was their God-given right.

Increasing population and prosperity, religious freedom in the individual colonies, the philosophy of the Enlightenment that men had certain fundamental rights which no government had the right to infringe upon, plus the 15-year-long spiritual revolution of the First Great Awakening, all came together to form a new sense of identity. By the mid-1700's, colonists had been living in America for 150 years; each colony had formed its own government, and people were used to a great degree of freedom.

However, the British Parliament was incrementally passing more trade laws, taxes, and restrictions to benefit Britain more than the colonies. While the colonists had asked for the same political rights as people in Britain, the king had refused. Thomas Paine, political philosopher and activist, wrote, *"It is repugnant to reason to suppose that this continent can longer remain subject to any external power...there is something absurd in supposing a continent to be perpetually governed by an island."*

Paine also wrote, *"Let a crown be placed thereon, by which the world may know, that so far as we approve of monarchy, that in America the law is King. For as in absolute governments the King is law, so in free countries the law ought to be King; and there ought to be no other."*

(wikipedia.org/historyofJewsInBrazil; myjewishlearning.com/Jewish-immigration; loc.gov/exhibits/religion; lotusarise.com, 4/18/20; charismamag.com, 7/31/19)

SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Phone: (631) 226-7725 **Parish Fax:** (631) 225-9597

Directory of Phone Extensions

Name	Ext	Email
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
Carole Carrano, Parish Secretary	212	ccarrano@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Thomas Crennan, Business Manager	204	tcrennan@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgrojoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religioused@oloph.org
Christopher Ferraro, Director of Music	210	cferraro@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Fr. Emmanuel Okonkwo	223	emmaokons@yahoo.com
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
St. Vincent de Paul	234	stvincentdepaul@oloph.org
Josephine Vagelatos, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor	206	jvagelatos@oloph.org
Fr. Frank Zero, Associate Pastor	203	fzero@oloph.org

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism ceremonies are held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Parents wishing to have a child baptized must attend a baptism preparation session before the baptism; these sessions are held on the first and third Thursdays of the month excluding holidays. Contact the Parish Office to begin the process of having your child baptized.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Those who are seriously ill or facing surgery, as well as those in danger of death, should receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Please call the Parish Office and ask for one of our priests.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Adults who wish to be baptized, or who have been baptized in another Christian faith and wish to become Catholic, or who have been baptized Catholic and wish to be confirmed and receive Holy Communion, are invited to join the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Please contact Jeffrey Gaab at (631) 965-0076 or e-mail at jsg375@gmail.com to begin the process.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Adults who have been baptized Catholic and who have received Holy Communion but who still need the Sacrament of Confirmation should enroll in our Adult Confirmation Classes. Please contact Deacon Robert Becker at 631-226-6175 or e-mail to DeaconRobert@oloph.org.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please contact the Parish Office at least SIX MONTHS before the desired date of your wedding.

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Vincent Boccanfuso
Eileen Corticchia (Chair)
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Jeffrey Gaab
Joselyn Kalt
Mary Leon
Rachelle Louis-Jacques
Carlton Mitchell
Kevin Sabella, Jr.
Kevin Sabella, Sr.
Adele Venezia

Please feel free to speak to any member of the Pastoral Council with any questions you might have.

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Gerry Chille
John Reynolds

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Barrett
Bill Bendernagel
Gerry Chille (Chair)
Thomas Crennan
Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Marie Gagneron
Kenneth Hale
Bob Meade
Bob Mehm
John Reynolds
Kevin Sabella, Sr.

Please feel free to speak to any member of the Finance Committee with any questions you might have.

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

Fauvette Auguste
Deacon Robert Becker
Mark Costantino
Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
Chris Ferraro
MaryAnn Haas
Jenine Jimenez-Spina
Denise Martinez
Barbara McPhail
Deacon Doug Smith
Mike Williams
Fr. Frank Zero

Please feel free to speak to any member of the Liturgy Committee with any questions you might have.

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

WE CELEBRATE

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. -Rite of Baptism



Jacob Matthew Rutigliano

We welcome the newest members
of the Catholic community here at OLPH!

PERPETUAL HELP MASS **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021** **12:15 P.M.**

Joseph Anselmo (Living)

*Requested by
Martha Anselmo*

Joseph Friscia

*Requested by Mr. & Mrs.
Michael Vagelatos*

FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT COME FORWARD IN PROCESSION TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

If you are, or if someone you are with is, unable to walk in procession to receive Holy Communion, please alert one of the Ushers **before Mass begins**. The Usher will be glad to arrange to have one of the ministers bring Holy Communion to the pew. Please remember to inform an Usher before Mass begins; do not wait until the time of Communion. Also, if at all possible, please sit in the front half of the church, to make it easier for the minister to come to you. Thank you.

WE REMEMBER

*We remember those who have died in our parish
community this week:*

Bernard Doyle
Peter Carotenuto
Anna Vitiello

*"O God, who through the ending of present things open up the
beginning of things to come, grant, we pray, that the soul of your
servant may be led to you to attain the inheritance of eternal
redemption."*

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

*Danielle and Baby Leach
Aurora and Reynold Ruiz
Mark Kuller
Christopher Rivola
Deacon Bill Crosby
Anne Therese Walters
Diane Mahlstadt
Lisa Hulsen
Ann Fisher
Tony Gillick
Leonard Fries
Bill Trigg*

*Nancy Beavers
Patricia Pedcina
Angela Pagnotta
Gertrude Clifford
Chester Fichandler
Samantha Cheng
Russell Giacalone
Brigida Marine
Miranda Wesolowski
Dawn Arpino
Christine Guido*

If a family member or close friend is ill, please let us know so our community can pray for them. To have your name or the name of a loved one listed in our parish bulletin, please call the Parish Office. **Please make sure the person is aware the request has been made and that they are agreeable with their name printed in the bulletin.** The name will remain on the list for about four weeks.

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be
comforted." Matthew 5:4*

If you are mourning the loss of a loved one, the support of your Catholic faith community should be a source of comfort and strength. A bereavement group run by trained facilitators helps grieving people learn skills for navigating their loss and opportunities to share their stories of loss. The **Bereavement Support Group** is a parish-based ministry responding to the needs of the recently bereaved by offering emotional, and sometimes practical, support as they learn to cope with their loss.

If you have suffered the loss of a loved one and would like to know more about the **OLPH Support Group Program**, please contact Linda Arpino at 631-592-1062 or Marige Reyes at 631-608-3658. You may also leave your name and contact information with the receptionist in the rectory.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, February 22— The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

6:30	Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton
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12:15	Arnold & Dolly Mauro
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TUESDAY, February 23— Lenten Weekday (Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr)

6:30	Carla Giordano (Living)
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12:15	Perpetual Help Mass (List on p. 21)
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WEDNESDAY, February 24— Lenten Weekday

6:30	Helene Jirinec
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12:15	For the Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family
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THURSDAY, February 25— Lenten Weekday

6:30	Gary McComb
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12:15	Sr. Jean Fry
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FRIDAY, February 26— Lenten Weekday

6:30	Susan Joerger
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12:15	Thomas Nogan
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SATURDAY, February 27— Lenten Weekday

8:00	Marie Aliano
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Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00	For the People of the Parish
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Sunday, February 28— SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00	Living & Deceased Members of the OLPH Knights of Columbus Council 794
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10:00	Joseph Zummo
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12:00	For the Repose of the Souls of the McCarthy Family
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PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, February 22, 2021

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
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12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
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2:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Business Meeting	Room 24
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Wednesday, February 24, 2021

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
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12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
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5:30 p.m.	Level 6 Classes	School
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7:00 p.m.	Level 7 and 8 Classes	School
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Thursday, February 25, 2021

1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
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7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting	Church
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Friday, February 26, 2021

9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
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7:30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
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Saturday, February 27, 2021

8:30 & 10:00 a.m.	Levels 1-5 and Special Ed. Classes	School
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4:00 p.m.	Confessions	School
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6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
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Sunday, February 28, 2021

2:00 p.m.	Baptisms	Church
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7:00 p.m.	Holy Hour	Church
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WELCOME NEW OLPH PARISHIONERS



TO OUR NEW
OLPH PARISHIONER

February 2021

Mrs. Diane Maffei

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO

El grupo de oración "Jesús es el camino la verdad y la vida" le invita a alabar y glorificar al PADRE, al HIJO, y al ESPIRITU SANTO, todos los jueves de 7:00 p.m. en adelante en un ambiente familiar. Comenzando con el Santo Rosario. Le ofrecemos el cuidado de los niños, también les enseñamos la doctrina de la iglesia.

Todos los martes llevamos el Santo Rosario a los hogares para orar en familia. Familias interesadas favor llamar a Virginia Constantino al (631) 957-1149.

Para información sobre los sacramentos de El bautizo, Matrimonio y servicios pastorales, tales como llevarle la Eucaristía los enfermos, la última unción de los enfermos.

Las charlas de bautizo se llevan a cabo cada segundo y cuarto domingo del mes, los padres interesados en bautizar a sus hijos deben atender a una serie de charlas. Estas charlas son cada primer y tercer lunes del mes

Para más información llamar a la rectoría (631) 226-7725. En español a Alejandro Campos teléfono (631) 671-9257 correo electrónico saitjoseph98@gmail.com.

Preparándonos para la Liturgia Viva del Domingo 1º de Cuaresma - Ciclo B 21 de Febrero del 2021

**Tiempo de arrepentimiento y Conversión,
de dar un giro a nuestra vida siguiendo el ejemplo de Jesús.**

Primera Lectura (Génesis 9,8-15): Alianza de Dios con Noé

Tenemos la promesa de Dios de que nunca destruirá la obra de sus manos. Su Alianza es firme, como nos recuerda el arco iris.

Segunda Lectura (1 Pedro 3,18-22): Uno con Cristo en el Bautismo

Para cristianos desalentados, Pedro escribe: Cristo también ha experimentado sufrimiento y muerte, pero resucitó. Ustedes son uno con él por el bautismo, y les salvará.

Evangelio (Marcos 1,12-15): Arrepiéntanse y Crean

Jesús resume su misión en estas palabras: "Se ha cumplido el tiempo y está cerca el reino de Dios. Arrepiéntanse y crean en la Buena Nueva de Salvación". Él nos repite estas palabras a nosotros hoy.

Arrepiéntanse y Crean en la Buena Noticia de Salvación

Al comenzar la Cuaresma, el mensaje urgente que se nos dirige hoy es: "¡Arrepiéntanse! ¡Cambien el corazón, conviértanse!" Pero, ¿a quién le gusta cambiar sus hábitos y costumbres, su mentalidad, su estilo de vida? Preferiríamos quedarnos solos y seguir por los viejos caminos. Hasta Jesús mismo fue impulsado por el Espíritu al desierto, para allí ser tentado, para percibir con ojos claros su propia identidad, cuál era su tarea y cómo la gente y los acontecimientos tratarían de desviarlo de su misión. Pero Jesús fue más fuerte que la tentación y que el pecado

Miércoles 14 primer día de cuaresma

La imposición de las cenizas nos recuerda que nuestra vida en la tierra es pasajera y que nuestra vida definitiva se encuentra en el Cielo.



La Cuaresma comienza con el miércoles de Ceniza y es un tiempo de oración, penitencia y ayuno. Cuarenta días que la Iglesia marca para la conversión del corazón.

Las palabras que se usan para la imposición de cenizas, son: "Concédenos, Señor, el perdón y haznos pasar del pecado a la gracia y de la muerte a la vida"

El ayuno y la abstinencia

El miércoles de ceniza y el viernes santo son días de ayuno y abstinencia. La abstinencia obliga a partir de los 14 años y el ayuno de los 18 hasta los 59 años. El ayuno consiste hacer una sola comida fuerte al día y la abstinencia es no comer carne. Este es un modo de pedirle perdón a Dios por haberlo ofendido y decirle que queremos cambiar de vida para agradarlo siempre

OFFERING UPDATE February 13/14

Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	162	101	\$1,902.00
8:00 a.m.	108	49	1,945.00
10:00 a.m.	190	52	1,861.00
12:00 p.m.	180	65	1,947.00
Coin			9.34
Faith Direct			2,792.30
Children's Env.		9	51.00
Mail-ins:			3,719.00
TOTAL	640	276	\$14,226.64
2020 total	1,492	546	\$15,872.75
Candles			\$504.87
Poor Box			\$216.76

2021 OLPH CONTRIBUTION TAX LETTERS

Tax letters for the 2020 tax year will be prepared upon request only. Requests can be made by calling the Rectory: 631-226-7725 X 200. The Secretary will take your name, address & envelope number. The letters will be sent out *only upon request*. Thank you for your cooperation.

DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests for items printed in the bulletin must first have approval from Msgr. DeGrocco or the ministry moderator. *All material must be submitted* no later than the dates listed below and *as a Word document* to Carmel Becker at cbecker@oloph.org.
Editing and sizes are at the discretion of the editor.

February 28—passed
March 7—February 26
March 14—March 5

FAITH DIRECT
inspiring secure giving

This time last year the full scope and inherent dangers of COVID-19 were becoming clear. Our world was brought to a standstill, but our parish ministries continued because so many people needed our help. Recurring gifts helped sustain our parish in unprecedented times and continue to be a vital source of support for ministries that are a lifeline to those in need in our community.

To continue to make a difference in 2021, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish is reaching out to our parishioners. The more people use eGiving, the stronger foundation we will have for ministries that bring hope in times of uncertainty.

We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone, or tablet. You can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/NY286, or text 'Enroll' to (631) 201-5664.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,

Msgr. Joe

THE CHURCH IN NEED

Today, **February 21, 2021** a collection will be taken for "The Church in Need." The monies collected at this time will be shared among three areas of the world where there is a particular need for help:



Church in Central and Eastern Europe - the funds collected provide support for pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region.

- **The Church in Latin America** - your support of the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ.

- **The Church in Africa** - the fund supports pastoral projects that strengthen communities in their faith and foster lasting peace and reconciliation in a continent often marked by division and tension.

PREPARING FOR Sunday, February 28, 2021 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

*Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white.*

Mark 9:2-3a

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

The story of Abraham began when God told him to go forth from his native land on a journey requiring faith in facing the unknown. In the story we hear today of Abraham's testing, God again calls him to go forth on a journey requiring even greater faith. It is a painful story as Abraham faces sacrificing his only son Isaac whom he loves dearly. Shocking as this may sound to our modern ears, we shouldn't miss the point — Abraham's total devotion to God. Without knowing how, he trusted that God would ultimately be faithful to his promise to make him the father of a great nation. Because of such devotion, God blessed Abraham abundantly.

Romans 8:31b-34

Paul asks several rhetorical questions in this reading, such as "If God is for us, who can be against us?" It is interesting to think not only about how his original listeners, the early Christians in Rome, might have answered, but also to think about how we would answer. If God is for us, why do such bad things happen to us sometimes? Though we may not understand, we can be sure God does. God spared Abraham's son Isaac but he did not spare his own son Jesus from suffering and death. In all circumstances, no matter how troubling, Jesus is at God's right hand to intercede for us. What better news can there be?

Mark 9:2-10

The account of the Transfiguration, which we hear today, is a key passage in portraying the identity of Jesus. When Jesus is outwardly transformed and his clothes made dazzlingly white, his three friends then and we today get a glimpse of Jesus' inward divine form. There are many elements of the story that harken back to the Old Testament to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that has been foretold: Moses the Lawgiver, Elijah the Prophet, the three tents reminiscent of the harvest festival, even the setting on the mountain itself. We heard in the first reading how Abraham went up on the mountain to sacrifice his only son Isaac. Jesus tells his friends on this mountain how he must rise from the dead. It is clear that in every age, that of the Old Testament, or New Testament, or our own, Jesus is God's beloved Son and the surest sign of God's love for us.

Gospel Reflection

After reading next Sunday's readings take some time to pray on them before you come to Mass. Use the questions below to aid your reflection.

1. It took a blinding light for Peter, James and John to begin to see some hint of who Jesus was. Think of some problems in your country that need such illumination (for instance, immigration, human trafficking, environment). What needs to happen in these areas before you would be able to see something divine in them?

2. Pope Francis speaks about the Transfiguration. In his view, what needs to happen when we climb the mountain? Come down from the mountain?

"We all need to go apart, to ascend the mountain in a space of silence, to find ourselves and better perceive the voice of the Lord. This we do in prayer. But we cannot stay there! Encounter with God in prayer inspires us anew to 'descend the mountain' and return to the plain where we meet many brothers weighed down by fatigue, sickness, injustice, ignorance, poverty both material and spiritual."

*Pope Francis, Angelus, Second
Sunday of Lent, 16 March
2014*

Readings for the Week

Take time each day to read the daily readings of the Church.

Monday, February 22, 2021:

1 Peter 5:1-4 + Matthew 16:13-19

Tuesday, February 23, 2021:

Isaiah 55:10-11 + Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 24, 2021:

Jonah 3:1-10 + Luke 11:29-32

Thursday, February 25, 2020:

Ester C:12, 14-16, 23-25
+ Matthew 7:7-12

Friday, February 26, 2021:

Ezekiel 18:21-28 + Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday, February 27, 2021:

Deuteronomy 26:16-19
+ Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday, February 28, 2021:

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
+ Romans 8:31b-34
+ Mark 9:2-10

DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville Irish Night. Please join us as our annual event goes virtual on **March 6th**. This live streaming event is full of Irish spirit and cheer! It's going to be an evening of music, performances, heartfelt messages, and cash prizes – all from the comfort of home! Attire is whatever you're most comfortable in, and can range from pajamas to a dress or suit (as long as it's green). Mass will be live streamed at 6:00 p.m. followed by the event program at 7:00 p.m.. \$40 per ticket includes: Virtual entrance to event program, one entry into door prize raffle (a chance to win one of 12 fabulous prizes!), one copy of our Irish Night Cookbook, and one entry into the Irish Sweepstakes Raffle. For more information, please contact our Advancement Office at 631-842-6000 ext.246 or visit the event website: www.sistersofstdominic.org/irishnight2021

Irish and Catholic? *The Ancient Order of Hibernians* is the oldest Irish-Catholic Fraternal Organization in the United States, which was founded in New York City in 1836. AOH St. Patrick's Division 2 is located in the heart of Babylon Village and is the only AOH Division in the Town of Babylon. If you're Roman Catholic and Irish by birth or decent, please consider becoming a member. We have men's, ladies, Jr. Boys & Jr. Girls Divisions. We are a very active and charitable AOH Division celebrating our Irish-Catholic religion, culture and heritage. We also offer Irish Step Dancing classes, Irish-language classes, Bagpipe & Drum lessons and more! For more information, please contact President Jim Killen—email president.babylonhibernians.com, www.BabylonHibernians.com or 631-587-1896.

Interested in learning about our school? *St. Martin of Tours Catholic School*, 30 Union Avenue, Amityville. Virtual open houses, 1 on 1 Meeting with our Principal, Mr. Parisi and Staff Members or private family tours. For more information or to arrange a meeting call 631-264-7166 or visit our website: www.smtschool.org.

Join **Catholic Faith Network** for the **2021 Telethon** on Saturday, **February 27th** from 2:00—10:00 p.m. and Sunday, **February 28th** from 12:00-10:00 p.m. This exciting weekend will feature guests from around the world, thrilling performances and inspirational interviews. CFN is available on your local cable providers as well as on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android and the free CFN app. The Catholic Faith Network continues to be there for you during these challenging times and we ask that you help us continue in our mission. If you have capacity to give this year, please do. Consider making a donation by phone or by visiting www.CFNtv.org.



**AOH
ST. PATRICK'S DIVISION 2**

**DRIVE-THRU
FOOD DRIVE**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

11:00 A.M. — 2:00 P.M.

(NON-CONTACT / COVID SAFE)

AT THE HIBERNIAN HALL

27 LOCUST AVENUE, BABYLON

AOH St. Patrick's Division 2

**will be collecting food for the food pantry at
Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Lindenhurst.**

Below is a list of requested items:

**SOUPS WITH MEAT
PANCAKE MIX
SHELF STABLE MILK
PEANUT BUTTER
CANNED CHICKEN
CANNED FRUIT
CANNED CARROTS
GRAVIES
PAPER PRODUCTS
SHAMPOO**

**Please consider driving thru to help a parish in our
surrounding community.**

		LINDENCREST DINER Steaks • Chops • Seafood Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner Late Night Snacks 226-1010 330 W. Montauk Hwy., Lindenhurst Serving our community with pride since 1985!			Donald H. Zuber <i>Painting</i> Inside and Out Paper Hanging (631) 225-9452
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		George Holub, Computer Surgeon Cellphone: (631) 236-3119 The Computer Surgeons "We Make Your Computer Healthy Again" PO Box 13141, Hauppauge, NY 11788 (631) 240-4600 Fax (631) 242-8084 www.thecomputersurgeons.com			Fireside Catholic Heritage Edition Bible  The Catholic Heritage Edition in the New American Bible Revised Edition translation is the ideal Catholic Family Bible. Features: Our Catholic Family, Family Record section and Burgundy padded cover with gold-gilded page edges. Only \$69.99 post paid
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